(b) The participating athletes and officials for the Commonwealth Games-2010 would be accommodated in the Games Village, to be developed by the DDA, near NOIDA crossing off National Highway-24. With reference to creation of additional accommodation by way of hotels, paying guest accommodation, etc., for other visitors and tourists at the time of the Games, a Task Force has also been constituted in the Ministry of Tourism to follow up and coordinate with all concerned agencies.

(c) and (d) To enable for Government, to give focussed attention to the Commonwealth Games-2010 and other such events, a separate 'International Sports Division' has also been created in the Ministry. This Division is headed by a Joint Secretary, with the requisite supporting officers and staff. For the present, 12 posts have been sanctioned for this Division. The officers and staff will be drawn from the existing cadres, and will be given the necessary training/exposure as may be required. Accordingly, appointment of any other specially skilled staff is not envisaged for the present.

Lifting ban against some banned cricketers

2567. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the BCCI is planning to lift ban against some banned cricketers of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also aware that BCCI has felicitated one of the banned cricketers who bring disrepute to India and Cricket; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) As per information received from the BCCI, they have not taken any decision to lift the ban against any banned cricketer. They had felicitated all former Captains of India and Shri. Mohd. Azharuddin, being a former captain, was also felicitated on the occasion. BCCI, like other National sporting federations, is autonomous in its functioning and Government respects that autonomy.